



STORY OF THE MONTH | THE ART OF DOING (ALMOST) NOTHING: AUGUST IN FRANCE



If you're doing business in France, you'll have noticed: August is remarkably quiet. Offices close, inboxes pause, and decision-making slows down. In the Netherlands, we jokingly call it *komkommertijd* ("cucumber time") – a period when little news happens and productivity slows.

This national slowdown isn't just cultural, it's structural. Nearly **70% of French employees** take their annual holidays in July and August, and the effect is especially visible in August. Major cities like Paris empty out as residents head to the coast or countryside, leaving many cafés, boutiques and even restaurants temporarily closed. Business activity slows sharply, particularly in B2B sectors. SMEs often use this time for maintenance, staff rotations, or strategic planning. It may feel like nothing is happening, but it's a conscious, structured pause.

Because *La Rentrée*, in early September, is more than a "back to school", it's when business truly restarts. New budgets, new projects, renewed energy. For international entrepreneurs and professionals, understanding this rhythm is key to navigating the French market.

To honour this tradition, the Netherlands France Chamber of Commerce will close from **15 to 18 August** (*August 15 is a national holiday in France*). That said, we're not fully off the radar — one or more of our team members will remain available throughout the summer period for all your questions and requests.

To mark the restart in September, the Netherlands France Chamber of Commerce, together with **NetworkIrlande**, is pleased to invite you to our **La Rentrée Networking Event on September 23**. Join us to reconnect, exchange insights, and toast to the new business season.

Mark your calendars; after all, if August is for slowing down, September is for getting back in the game!

Join our La Rentrée Event!

NEW MEMBERS | WELCOME



Rabobank is a leading Dutch financial institution operating on the basis of cooperative principles with a mission to “Grow a better world together”. This mission reflects our commitment to fostering sustainable economies and societies through collaboration. We use our knowledge, global network and financial solutions to support entrepreneurship and innovation. With a dedicated International Business Advisory team we want to contribute in realising the international growth ambitions of our Dutch business clients. [Learn more here.](#)

Van Halteren Technologies is a family-owned Dutch company founded in 1969. The Van Halteren Technologies operates in various industries, including defense (army and naval sectors), offshore & maritime, civil engineering, sustainable energy, motion simulation, and hydrodynamic research. Van Halteren Technologies includes four entities: Van Halteren Metaal B.V., Van Halteren Technologies Boxtel B.V., Van Halteren Naval Products B.V., and Van Halteren Special Products B.V. Learn more [via this link.](#)



JOB OPPORTUNITIES

Each month, we highlight career opportunities for the French market from our NFCC members.

Le Hibou via Oryx Account Manager Netherlands

Our member Oryx is recruiting for LeHibou, a French company founded 9 years ago in Paris and the leading French specialist in matching highly qualified IT freelancers. After a successful expansion to Belgium, LeHibou is now ready to launch in the Netherlands.

[Learn more](#)

VM INTERNATIONAL / Collaborateur Comptable Confirmé

Our member VM INTERNATIONAL AUDIT CONSULTING, an innovative digital accounting firm located in Paris's 16th arrondissement, is recruiting an experienced associate to support subsidiaries of foreign groups (mainly Dutch) and innovative start-ups (JEI, CIR). More info via the button below.

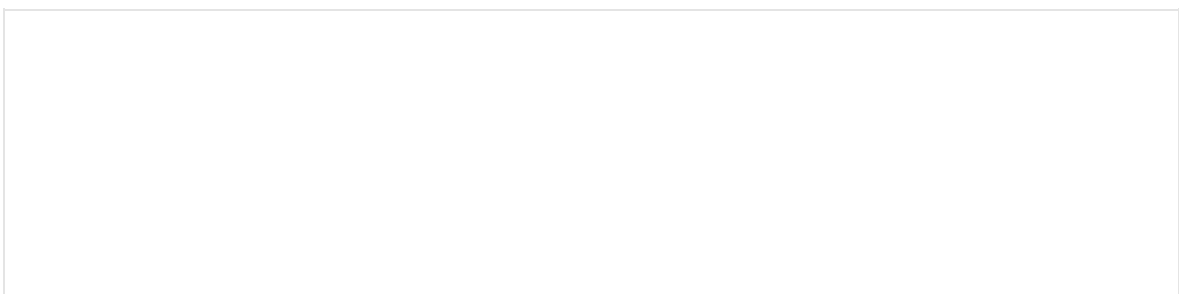
[Learn more](#)

SECTOR SPECIFICS | SIBCA 2025



SIBCA, the Salon de l'Immobilier Bas Carbone, returns to the Grand Palais from September 3–5, 2025, under the patronage of the President of the French Republic. With 200 exhibitors and 12,500 visitors expected, this fair showcases innovative low-carbon solutions for designing, building, and renovating tomorrow's urban spaces. During three days, SIBCA brings together real estate decision-makers committed to sustainability. Our colleague **Ghalia Zebiri** will be present at the fair. For trade fair support via the Netherlands France Chamber of Commerce, please contact info@nfcc.fr.

UPCOMING EVENTS | MORE TO BE PUBLISHED SOON





La Rentrée: NFCC x NetworkIrlande

A joint networking event in the historic setting of the Centre Culturel I...

MADE POSSIBLE BY OUR MEMBERS



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